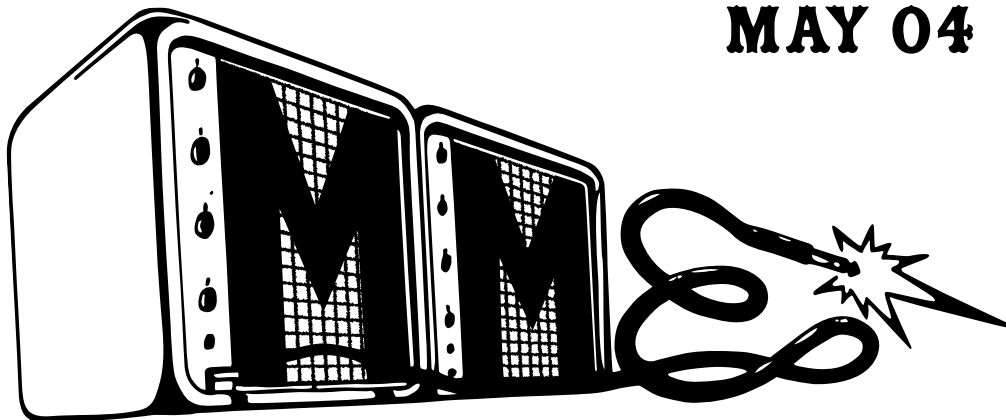


MAY 04



MEDWAY & MAIDSTONE EXPRESS



FREE AND IN ASSOCIATION WITH **MM2K**

MME has gone cyber

I have decided to make MME only available on the MM2K site for download as photocopying and stapling only holds an appeal for so long! This will mean that the site will be evolving so that the latest reviews and news will be available, so keep checking this site.

If you would like a reminder each month that the new mag is here, send me an email at nixta@btopenworld.com, I will also email out gig listings we have received for that month.

The last month has seen some great gigs, notably Ikara Colt, The Rocks and Rachel Stamp, all loving the Medway crowds and proving that this town is changing for the better. We have recieved many new local CDs and have been impressed by the new, varied sounds out there - keep 'em coming.
See you at the gigs!

NICKY H

Issue includes...

Ikara Colt and The Rocks

Catch the eye, Chasing chaos
and Swedish Ska from
Scaramanga

Rachel Stamp + CCTV

The Gummy Babies

Calling Nova

The Meek & Carpetburn

Kate Rus at the Cathedral

Stoftype

Plus... letters, news, workshop
info, websites...



nixta@btopenworld.com

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whether you're after a support
band, a musician for a new band or
help with a demo...
Instruments for sale/needed -
just let us know.

EASTER AT THE MAND HOU



I would have reviewed the music, but It's the start of a three day Easter Extravaganza at the Command House and organisation looks like it's gone away for the long weekend. The first band is due on at 1pm. By half-past the outdoor stage is still under construction; a sculpture of scaffold and board, topped by a blue tarpaulin to protect against the threatening skies. The crowd that has gathered inside the pub gradually filters away to the town centre in search of food; only crisps, peanuts and dubious bags of cockles are on offer behind the bar. No worries: it's the weekend, why hurry? I've got a newspaper, a glass of red and a seat by the window. I settle down and enjoy the new decor , more cafe society than pub, until I visit the toilets. Every expense has been spared; no lock on one loo, and the other- don't even go there. I worry that I am turning into my ex-in-laws, who provided commentaries on the loos on family outings and, I suspect, recorded their findings in a logbook. Two o'clock and there's more activity on the stage:

people looking busy, unravelling cables and plugging things in. Someone comes in the pub and says it will be starting in fifteen minutes. It's cold outside and some of us fancy a hot drink. The barman, who looks terminally worried, tells me that they will be getting a hot drinks machine soon. I take a cold drink back to my table and gaze out the window to the stage and the muddy river beyond. A skinny guy, wearing what looks like a large stripy sock on his head, jumps up on the stage. The Cat in the Hat holds up three cardboard cut-outs: a P, a K and an O. He looks round for somewhere to prop up his letters, shrugs, drops them on the floor, and gets off the stage again. Three o'clock and a crowd of newcomers are gathering outside, watching people unwind cables and plug things in on the stage. Those of us who have been there since lunchtime decide to come back when the weather improves, maybe Monday, and head off home. I wonder if PKO are any good as I stop to buy a logbook in the Pentagon. You never know when it might come in handy.

Maria Bradley

(And we did return on Monday, which was blessed with gorgeous weather, a large crowd and a great atmosphere, even the kids had fun with an easter egg hunt but I must say that the choice of hiding place for the final egg was a tad dubious (in Dave 'The Gummy Babies' trousers!)

CAR CRASH TV (CCTV) AND RACHEL STAMP

CCTV

Plastic trousers, studded belts and pretty boys adorned the Tap tonight for an interesting combo of bands; local boys Car Crash TV and the established London glamsters, Rachel Stamp. As Rasmus and all things pseudo-alternative blared out from the decks, I started losing the will to live, even the sugar fix of Blue WKD was holding no appeal for me tonight so I was eager to get on with the proceedings and get inspired. Things started well and as CCTV began their set of funk infused rock, my spirits lifted as I reminisced of an Incubus set at Reading Festival. They are obviously a huge influence on this band, with its dramatic use of timing and fantastic melodies, well placed vocal harmonies added to an air of professionalism and confidence. A couple of slower numbers were sophisticated, well written and performed with emotion, although a couple of times the highly talented singer strayed from Brandon Boyd to Matt Bellamy from Muse and the operatics was slightly off mark. The songs went from acoustic harmony to heavy rock with some slap bass thrown in for good measure. A journey of sound which I would love to travel again, ideally outside in the sun – gorgeous.



Headliner's Rachel Stamp are well known and have been on the circuit for years but I had never heard of them (the shame!) Glam is not really my scene but appreciate boys in make up so was not expecting the blinding set I encountered. The band consists of William Crewdson (guitar), the stunning Shaheena Dax on keyboards and David Ryder-Prangle (vocals and bass). They exude huge sexual energy and play a tight set of glam/pop/punk which goes down a storm with the punters. Dirty lyrics and catchy hooks excite the audience (the majority of which are obviously fans, drooling and singing back at David). Their songs include 'Brand New Toy', 'Spank' 'I like girlz' (I'm not convinced that's all he likes!) and lyrics "I'm on my back again, This is the best way to make friends". Loads of fun, raunchy,

AT TAP N TIN APRIL



playful, good music. When they comin again?

Nicky H

We asked Rachel Stamp what they thought of their gig at the Tap n Tin...

We loved the Tap n' Tin gig. It was a very cool venue and a very rock n' roll crowd. Rachel Stamp are currently playing gigs that aren't on the regular tour circuit but that have a good attitude to live music away from record industry bullshit. The Tap n' Tin is a real music venue run by great people and we had a great time playing our music there and we'd love to play there again.

Rachel Stamp are about to record a new album, set for release in October, accompanied by a full UK and USA tour. In the meantime, we have just released a very limited edition album of early previously unheard and rare tracks, available exclusively through our website

www.rachelstampocks.com

We've been sent quite a few demos to review recently , so they now have their own space on the main download page

GIG LISTINGS



MAY 2004

Weds 19th

Punk at RAF Club with First Time Felony + Story So Far and Catch the Eye

Intraverse & PKO The Basement (Union Bar), Maidstone

Thurs 20th

Battle Of The Bands Heat 3 @ Beacon Court £2

Fri 21st

Catch the eye + support 8-11, £2 @ Bar M

90% Proof @ Beacon Court Free

Sat 22nd

FUZZ support ART BRUT (latest Rough Trade signing) @ Tap n Tin. Maybe a special guest appearance.

Geoff Travis and James Endeacott will be DJing £5

Sun 23rd

Jam Session @ Fleur-De-Lis, Burham

Mon 24th

3dbs down @ Tunbridge Wells Forum, Round 2 of The Stable

Weds 26th

Metal night at RAF Club with Can't remember + Sibling Rivalry + Nine Days to No one

Thurs 27th

Battle Of The Bands Heat 4 With Tortilla Army + Reasonable Doubt + Jacuzzi 9mm @ Beacon Court

Fri 28th

Contrast + support @ Bar M £2

Kingskin (voted best unsigned band by Kerrang readers) Quality Funge + Support @ Tap n Tin £1

Dragon Rock Free @ Beacon Court

Sat 29th May

The Vikings of Steel + TBC + Cortex DJ's 10pm £2 @ TapnTin

The Beat Ska Band @ Beacon Court £9

Gummy Babies at Bar M

A disappointingly small crowd saw the Gummy Babies getting off to a powerful start with 'Insanity Rising' from their new CD. It's also a song which shows off new drummer Carlos to his best - this was his first time out with the band and after only one rehearsal, tonight's performance suggest he's going to be a real asset to the band. Next up 'Painted Lady' gives Daz a chance to show off some neat guitar and controlled feedback. Jax gets her chance to show what the bass can do on 'Delirium' and Dave up front, keeps the whole thing together and engages the audience. There's plenty more good rock to come; even something a little pop punk, with a hint of Allister or Dynamite boy, before rounding off with some quality covers of 'Ace of Spade's and 'Sandman'.

Everyone in the band seems to have something to contribute and they all seem to enjoy the music. You can begin to see why they have a gig list that takes in every weekend to the end of November. All these gigs have also paid off for the vocals, which seem to have really developed since I saw them play last year. If you like an evening of rock in all its forms, this is probably a band worth checking out.

<http://mysite.freemove.com/thegummybabies>

The Meek and CarpetBurn at RAF Club

Unfortunately the audience is smaller than usual tonight and mostly seated. First up is The Meek, some original rock to a reasonable standard, supplemented by a good organ sound over some sound drumming. The audience made it difficult for the band to project much presence, although the singer tried. It would be worth seeing them with a bigger, more active audience but they'd also need to show a bit more action onstage. CarpetBurn had an interesting set up with the drums off centre and the start which saw those drums building up behind some sustained feedback showed promise; but it took a while for things to develop and just as they started to deliver, it was over. The next number saw some solid bass coming and doing a good job of support for the remainder of the indie rock set; with some acceptable lead and rhythm guitar with a few neat touches on effects. Some attempt to work the audience even got a few up and moving for their more bouncy number. The vocalist sounds like a mix of Damon Albarn and Pete Shelley (Buzzcocks), it will be interesting to see how the style develops. They have certainly come on a lot.

David Wraight

Stoftype at Tap 'n' Tin

When I saw this band play in December '03 I said "this could have been the worst gig they ever played" but there was more than a hint of what the band could be capable of on a good night. Tonight they proved they could deliver and gave a great performance. This is a band not afraid to experiment and in front of a tight back line of drums and bass, there is plenty of work going on with double mikes, echo and feedback. As well as the familiar stuff from their Nails CD there was some good new stuff - maybe it's time for a new CD? I don't know of anyone else around here pushing the boundaries in quite the same way as Stoftype; so take that open mind, and plug it into the Stoftype experience.

www.stoftype.com

Calling Nova at Tap n Tin

The driving drums with a wall of guitar sound were great but a poor mix meant that the vocalist had to work really hard. Their initial energy held the fickle Tap 'n' Tin audience but they lost it a little in the middle before making a strong come back and finishing with a good rock n roll gear trashing.

A few pauses, OK quite a few pauses suggest there been a bit of lapse since the last rehearsal/gig and therefore some of the dynamics that drive a band just weren't there. But give them their due, the sound mix played a large factor in their set tonight. Better luck next time boys.
sweetest!

Uppury Arts College has a series of **workshops** coming up at the TapnTin, from 7pm till 9pm on 25th May, 1st and 8th June. Admission is free and is strictly for over 18's. Topics covered include copyright issues, recording and mastering techniques, artwork and merchandising, distribution, gigging, insurance, A&R, legal issues and more. To book your place, email Jo Price on joprice@uac.medway.sch.uk or call her on 01634 852341 (ext 536).

Mad hairdos and magic at Rochester Cathedral

Kate Rusby defies expectations: a slight figure in big boots and a hairdo like a punk Medusa faerie queen, she has a voice that pierces the heart and soothes the soul. Her down to earth Yorkshire sense of humour keeps an evening of extraordinary folk music firmly on the ground. She is flanked by Andy Cutting on accordion and John McCusker on fiddle, mandolin and tin whistle. My companion for the evening remarks that McCusker is probably a genius and I am inclined to agree. I am also rather taken by his baby mohican which challenges folk stereotypes.

Arrangements of traditional songs like The Wild Goose and The Good Man contrast with Rusby's own compositions. I hate to resort to cliché but Cruel makes the hairs on the back of my neck stand on end and her final song Underneath The Stars brings a tear to my eye. I almost follow her suggestion to stop the car on the way home and lie on the road to look at the stars, but I would probably get run over in Medway!

A night of superb musicianship in a magical setting that makes you feel good to be alive.

Maria Bradley

THE ROCKS AND IKARA COLT ROCK AT

“Chat’ham business”

Chatham did not know what to expect from The Rocks, but within seconds of James singing, they knew this band was unlike every other band that has previously graced their presence onstage at the tap. What made such an impact was the unique vocals as loud as possible with guitar riffs to die for, alongside the bands interaction with the crowd; James wondering throughout the crowd and singing “I won’t need you when you’re dead” into the faces of everyone he passed as he darted around and then outside of the top floor.



The eight songs in the set consisted of their last three singles, one of which they ended on “Celeste”. Within seconds of playing the last chord, the applause and cheers was loud enough that most headline bands at the tap n tin could dream of. The rocks had showed Chatham what they had been giving London and a lot of our venues in the country this past year. Their album will be on sale shortly. Expect them back at the tap n tin.

Email reviews of local music or details of your band’s new release...
nixta@btopenworld.com

THE TAP N TIN MAY 2004

Ikara Colt came onstage to their first headline gig in a while, especially since they have just finished a long tour with Amen around the UK. Once again, a lot of the crowd did not know what to expect before the music, so after the guitars of Claire Ingram and new bass player Tracy Bellaries kicked in and the shouty perfect vocals of Paul Resende and drumming of Dominic Young had all begun, it took no less than five minutes before the front of the crowd started to get sweaty.

"Sink Venice" was one of the many highlights of the set which was made up of 13 songs of old and new material from their forthcoming album "Modern Apprentice" out on the 7th June. Never has the tap n tin seen a faster drummer than Dominic who is quite possibly the greatest drummer seen by MME. Paul started to sing closer and closer to the jumping crowd and it was clear that the band loved every second of having an audience there to see them and them only, once again. Tracy joined Paul in getting closer to the end of the stage, half a foot away from the sweat of Chatham as Dominic was in his own world of drumming at lightening speed and Claire smiled throughout her backing vocals duty. After one of the bands newer songs, Paul said, "This is the best reception we have ever had for this song, so Chatham I bow to you."



The set progressed and underground favourites such as "Rudd" and "One Note" was belted out, before Paul took a run up and dived into the jumping crowd, where he was held high until the end of the song before falling back onstage. Paul then invited the crowd to wreck the stage and equipment, shouting "It's on us"...the set ended with "I'm with stupid" with every person watching this gig knowing they had truly seen something special, a gig they will not forget in a rush. Maybe not as important as "that reunion gig" back in October, but musically and performance wise, truly out of this world. Backstage, vodka flowed for many hours since the bands van was locked in Wickes car park; Paul went behind the bar and was serving drinks to those left until some of the band went home in the now free van. Everyone else piled back to an after party till the very early hours of the morning. Who says Chatham is always a boring place?

SKA, PUNK AND HARDCORE AT RAF CLUB CATCH THE EYE, CHASING CHAOS AND SCARAMANGA

From the sound check it was obvious who was likely to win out tonight but first up we had a new punk outfit Catch the Eye. Their front man certainly had stage presence and the band grew with confidence through the set, which included a very acceptable 'God Save the Queen' cover. A promising start, more gigs will develop their act.

Next up was Chasing Chaos, they gave some competent hardcore but they need to develop a bit more punch into their sound. Again, a promising start and like Catch the Eye they managed to get the audience up and dancing. A nice touch from both bands was the introduction of a couple of ska numbers in the sets as a tribute to the final band, Scaramanga.

Scaramanga are a Swedish ska punk band brought to Chatham by MM&K during their mini UK tour and before their closing gig at the Cavern in Liverpool. They were billed as the ska kings from the ends of the earth and by the end of their first number a good part of the audience would have followed them there. If you wanted to see the best of ska punk this was the place to be. Think of the now sadly disbanded My Dad is Big

and take it up plenty of notches and you get Scaramanga. They come with keyboards, two trumpets, a sax and the usual drums, bass and guitar. Pelle, the lead guitar covered the bulk of the lyrics but the rest of the band provides top quality harmony. These were seven guys who knew how to work their audience, had stage presence, knew how to play, played well, and were obviously having as much fun on stage as the audience singing and dancing along in front - yes, they did teach Chatham a few Swedish lyrics. This was a professional performance with a big emphasis on the proFUNessional. Thanks to the Wednesday night crew at the RAF club. They took a bit of risk on putting on the unknown Scaramanga but I'm glad they did and so was a strong local audience.

Scaramanga are back in Sweden now, so if you want to catch them now it's a £30 cheap flight deal to Stockholm and a 2.5 hour express train to Hudiksvall, their home town.

www.scaramanga.tk

David Wraight



**Thanks to the following contributors this month:
David Wraight, Maria Bradley, the bands and readers
Special thanks to Rachel Stamp and Fipzie**

The purpose of MME is to promote Medway's thriving music scene and many talented musicians and bands. Please get in touch if you would like to comment on anything featured or would like to contribute in some way.

While every care is taken to provide accurate information, we cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions, no matter how caused. Please check with the venue concerned regarding events, as details can change at short notice.

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We aim to be fair in everything we write, reviews are written by gig-goers making personal judgements (which do not always match those of the publisher). Go check the talent out for yourself and tell us what you think.

SITES

Bands...

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Advice and information...

www.bl.uk/collections/sound-archive/record.html is a guide to the major record labels and their subsidiaries
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www.sonymusic.co.uk

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